

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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R 101152Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8581

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS PARIS 00680

USIAC

USIA FOR IOP/M, IAA

FROM ARS

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: US AFRICA POLICY

1. WEEKLY NEWSLETTER, "L'ECHO DE L'AFRIQUE" (PARIS)
CARRIES LENGTHY ANALYSIS OF US POLICY IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA AND LIKELY DIRECTION UNDER CARTER. EXCERPTS
FOLLOW:

2. TEXT: ... NEITHER SALISBURY NOR PRETORIA CAN COUNT
ON MAINTENING THE STATUS QUO. IT IS WASHINGTON WHICH
IS FOR THEM THE PRINCIPAL DANGER FROM NOW ON. THE
DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION WILL DO EVERYTHING NECESSARY
TO DEMONSTRATE TO OAU MEMBER COUNTRIES THAT IT SUPPORTS
NEITHER THE REBEL "COLONIALIST" REGIME OF IAN SMITH,
NOR THE SEGREGATIONIST ORDER DEFENDED BY JOHN
BALTHAZAR VORSTER. BUT AMERICAN POLICY WILL DEVELOP
UNDER SIGN OF CONTINUITY AND WILL BE REVOLUTIONARY
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ONLY IN APPEARANCE.

(FOLLOWING GRAF IN BOLDFACE TYPE.) FOR AROUND 20
YEARS, VARIOUS AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE DECLARED
THEMSELVES HOSTILE TO APARTHEID AND HAVE QUIETLY AIDED
A CERTAIN NUMBER OF DISSIDENT MOVEMENTS, BLACK AND
WHITE, NOTABLY THROUGH THE INTERMEDIARY OF THE WORLD

COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (? "CONSEIL OECUMENIQUE DES EGLISES") AND THE C.I.S.L. TYPICAL FACT: LAST SUMMER, AT MOMENT WHEN RACIAL DISTURBANCES WERE AT FULL FORCE, THE AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER IN SOWETO WAS TOTALLY SPARED BY THE ENRAGED DEMONSTRATORS. NEVERTHELESS, ITS DIRECTORS--BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS FOR MOST PART--HAD ASKED AND WERE GRANTED THAT NO FORCE OF POLICE PROTECT IT.

IT IS CERTAIN THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION WILL GO FURTHER THAN PRECEDING ONES, BUT WITHOUT DIVERGING FROM AN EVOLUTIONIST PHILOSOPHY.... BUT SEVERAL REASONS HAVE CONVINCED THE CARTER TEAM TO APPROACH PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA WITH A CERTAIN PRUDENCE:

FIRST, HARD NUT OF "WHITE POWER" OF PRETORIA--THAT RIGHT WING OF NATIONALIST PARTY WHICH RETAINS FAVOR OF MAJORITY OF ELECTORATE--WILL SURELY GO TO DESPERATE MEASURES, VERY DANGEROUS FOR WORLD PEACE, IF IT FEELS ITSELF CORNERED.... SECOND, CARTER ENVISAGES ONLY WITH MOST EXTREME REPUGNANCE ANY FORM OF AMERICAN MILITARY ENGAGEMENT, DIRECT OR INDIRECT.... THIRD, DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION DOES NOT INTEND TO AUGMENT SIGNIFICANTLY AMERICAN FOREIGN AID. NOW, SOUTH AFRICA, SHARES, DE FACTO, IN THE ECONOMIC SURVIVAL OF A GREAT MANY OAU MEMBER STATES, INCLUDING MOZAMBIQUE, ZAMBIA, ZAIRE, AND EVEN CAPE VERDE ARCHIPELAGO (SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS MAINTAINS LANDING RIGHTS THERE IN RETURN FOR MONETARY AID). FOURTH, AN ECONOMIC EMBARGO AGAINST PRETORIA REGIME WOULD DOUBLE PRICE OF GREAT NUMBER OF ESSENTIAL

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RAW MATERIALS, TO GREATEST PROFIT OF SOVIETS, AND TO GREAT PREJUDICE OF EUROPEANS, WHOSE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DIFFICULTIES WOULD BE SERIOUSLY AGGRAVATED. NOW, AFTER NEAR EAST, IT IS WEST EUROPEAN SITUATION WHICH IS THE ESSENTIAL PREOCCUPATION OF JIMMY CARTER AND OF "HIS KISSINGER", THE VERY ANTI-SOVIET BRZEZINSKI. END TEXT.

ANDERSON

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